

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our mission is to tell the story of the Cuyuna Iron Range and its people.

Myrna Nelson, August 2016

Summer is a busy time of year at the Soo Line Depot Museum. We are excited to show new exhibits and tell the stories of our Cuyuna Iron Range. Our newest volunteer, Tim Leonard, is a great addition to our group. He can fix or repair anything we give him. He is known as the "Ladder Man" but his name tag should read VVP (Very Valuable Person).

Our park was in full bloom with beautiful tulips this spring thanks to Don's expertise. Now the summer flowers have come to life and a walk through the park is a true pleasure. It pleases us to have people in Crosby-Ironton stop by just to admire the gardens.

We are most grateful to the Hallett Charitable Trusts for giving the heritage a grant enabling us to paint the trim and overhang on the Depot building. The Roubinick Brothers did a wonderful job and we plan to have them do some inside painting this fall. E. W. Hallett's presence is still being felt in Crosby-Ironton these many years after his death. Thank you, Mr. Hallett.

Crosby celebrates its Heritage Days on August 20th. The Museum will have its first Artisan's Fair in the Gene and Joannie Foote Park. We will have demonstrations on hand quilting and rope making. For sale will be jewelry, rocks, dolls, car memorabilia, old magazines and much more. Refreshments will also be served. COME ONE, COME ALL!!

Kaye Gillman's family gifted our park with two Japanese Lilac trees in Kaye and Dick's memory. They also gave a plaque on Dick Gillman's bench reading, "They are not dead who live in the Hearts they leave behind" – Tuscarora*- In loving memory of Kaye N. Gillman. (Kaye will always be remembered by her Heritage friends.

*Tuscarora is the name for the Skarureh People, which means "hemp people". They used Indian hemp (milkweed) to make rope, clothing and ceremonial objects. They are now located in North Carolina, New York and Canada.

THANK YOU

The Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network and Soo Line Depot Museum would like to thank the following organizations and people:

The Family of Richard and Kaye Gillman for the donation of the two beautiful Japanese Lilac trees for our park and the plaque remembering Kaye.

Larry Hayes for his contributions of his time and talents.

Emelia Wenzel, White Bear Lake Middle School, for the gift of her wonderful story board telling the story of Man High II.

A TRIBUTE TO MAN HIGH II

In June we had a visitor to our Tuesday meeting. Emelia Wenzel, John Schaubach's granddaughter, just completed 8th grade at White Bear Lake Middle School. She came to share her award-winning Man High History Project. She wanted to thank the Heritage Network, especially Joan Stefano, for information, materials and encouragement.

Pictured below are Emelia, Barb Grove and Gloria Perpich.



Emelia donated her wonderful story board to the Heritage Network and it is now on display at the Museum next to the Man High II capsule. She also donated the Life Magazine with a picture of Dr. Simons on the cover.

Thank you, Emelia, for helping keep our history alive.

“Any time you got nothing to do – and lots of time to do it –“ how about volunteering at the Museum?

--Modified Mae West quote--

GILLMAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Richard and Kaye Gillman Scholarship was awarded this year to CIHS senior Holly Larson. Holly will pursue a career in the field of nursing.

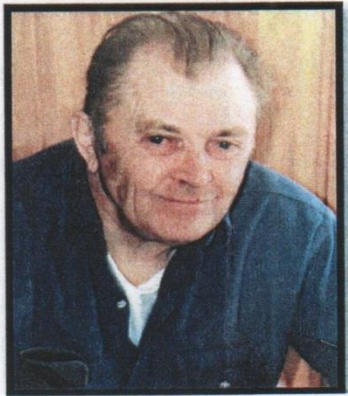


Presenting the scholarship to Holly are Myrna Nelson and Shirlee Bengtson

“The most important historical event in the Crosby area in the last 100 years, to me, is the Milford Mine disaster of 1924. In this tragic event, forty one miners were killed. It all started on February 5th of 1924. Men were working in the mine about 165 feet down, when suddenly they felt that something was terribly wrong. There were strong gusts of wind, and then the unspeakable happened. Water from Foley Lake flooded into the mine pit because of a surface cave in. The mine flooded so fast that only seven men could escape, but unfortunately forty one did not. Though one of the worst mining disasters known in Minnesota struck Milford, it still is very important to the history of Crosby.

Crosby was a mining town and there was no doubt about it. The mine was owned by George H. Crosby and Milford alone had shipped out 70,000 tons of ore, which of course made Crosby a booming town. That mine kept producing ore until 1932. Today the history of that mine still lives on. We have a historical museum dedicated to the mining that took place in Crosby and now the town uses Milford and all the other mines as beautiful places to relax, take a bike ride or have a family picnic.”

In Loving Memory Of
Albert Luverne Knieff



Born
January 13, 1926
Bay Lake Township, Minnesota

Died
March 28, 2016
Aitkin, Minnesota

We say "Goodbye" to yet another of our Heritage Network friends. Al Knieff passed away on March 28, 2016 after a long illness.

Al and his wife, Judy, worked for over thirty years operating Knieff's Shore Acres on Bay Lake.

Al was passionate about nature and history. He wrote a book about his family's history, *A Family of Pioneers*, in 1996. He was very involved in the writing and publishing of the Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network's many books in the '90's.

He was involved in local government as a former Bay Lake Township Supervisor. He was a member of the Mystic Masonic Lodge #213, the Bay Lake Area Lions Club, Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network and the Trails Association.

Al will be missed by many people in the area.

Blueberry Buckle

Submitted to Gourmet Grub by Jack and Ann Ruttger

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup soft shortening
1 egg	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
3 cups sifted flour	2 T. baking powder
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt	1 cup blueberries

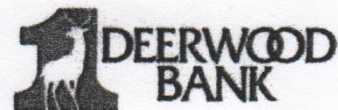
TOPPING

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar	$\frac{1}{3}$ cup sifted flour
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cinnamon	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup soft butter

Mix the sugar, soft shortening and egg together thoroughly. Stir in the $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk. Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt and stir into the batter. Just before putting into pan, carefully blend in 1 cup blueberries. Spread the batter in a greased and floured 9-inch square pan.

For topping: Stir together the sugar, sifted flour, cinnamon and soft butter and sprinkle the mixture over the batter before baking. Bake 45 to 50 minutes in a 375 degree oven. Serve warm and fresh from the oven.

This recipe was a favorite of the patrons of Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. The Ruttger family homesteaded in the area in the 1880's and the Ruttger name and establishment have become familiar to several generations of Cuyuna Range residents. Blueberries have a history there, too. Residents point out that the song "Blueberry Hill", very popular in its time, was written about Bay Lake's very own blueberry hill.



21236 Archibald Rd
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~Our thanks to Deerwood Bank
for printing this newsletter~

CROSBY HISTORY

People from all over the world came to the Cuyuna Iron Range looking for work, hoping to make a new life.

The Reverend James Butler hit the nail on the head in his address to those assembled at the 2nd C-I All Class Reunion when he said, "It was our differences that made us great and, at the same time, unique." In a "nutshell" the people of the Cuyuna Range were the salt of the earth! They worked hard, played hard, drank hard, fought hard, lived hard and died hard! We were a microcosm of "The Great American Melting Pot".

Each neighborhood had its own identity. Hale's Addition to Crosby was predominantly of North European extraction; "The Gold Coast" consisted mainly of WASPS; Lakeview was the home of our Finnish friends and "Balkan Street" was inhabited by immigrants from Southern Europe. Interspersed through all these ethnic communities were residents of Germanic, Italian, Scottish, Danish, Jewish and Russian extraction. The towns of Crosby and Ironton were comprised of about any ethnic group you could mention. Add different religions to this collective group and one has a real potpourri.

This is taken from an interview of John William Crosby, son of Matt Crosby.

DID YOU KNOW

Robert Archibald filed for a homestead in what is now part of the City of Deerwood in 1872. He fought in the Civil War and was discharged in 1866. When the railroad built a station here, he settled on Serpent Lake.

When the railroad built a depot here in 1872, they named it Withington. Some say it was named after the maiden name of the wife of one of the railroad officials but others think it was named for J. S. Withington, a member of the first board of directors of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Later it was renamed Deerwood for the plentiful deer in the woods.

The Ash Iron Company leased property to open a mine. In June 1918 it leased it to the John A. Savage Company who renamed it Sagamore and began mining operations in December 1918.

In 1922, miners operating shovels at Sagamore Mine near Riverton uncovered prehistoric remains of animal and plant life. These remains have been found to be at least 35,000 years old. Skeletons of extinct buffalo, horses and a giant beaver were found.

The Sagamore Mine also gave up one of the largest pieces of native copper ever found. It weighed 1,884 pounds and was on display at the School of Mines at the University of Minnesota. It is now on display at the Croft Mine in Crosby.

Cuyuna was the first new boom town on the Cuyuna Range. It was platted in 1909 because of its proximity to the Kennedy Mine. Early businesses were a bank, post office, sawmill and school. Kennedy mine soon was employing 225 workers. Eventually Cuyuna had many small stores along with a newspaper, hospital and theater.

Serpent Lake History

Taken from Earl LeBlanc's interview

In the 30's we had some real dry years and Serpent Lake went way down. We could walk from the Lakeview shore near the ice house to the point. It was muddy, but had a hard bottom. One day we were wading around and someone felt rocks under his feet. He reached down and came up with a piece of coal. We started to investigate and found out it was an old horse sleigh full of coal that had gone through the ice. We got buckets and sacks and hauled that coal home and to this day that old sleigh is still there.

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Remember to check out our website.

cuyunahistory.org

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We have T-shirts for sale at the museum.

They are \$10.00 each and come in many colors. We have neon green and yellow which are favorites of bikers and walkers. Stop in and check these out.

CUYUNA IRON RANGE HERITAGE NETWORK

Myrna Nelson, President

Andrew Hook, Vice President

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Jo Ouellette, Office Manager, Editor

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Barb Grove, Barb Black, Jack McAllister, Ejie Hanson, Colleen Rousu, Don Christiansen, Gloria Perpich, Ted Norlin, Gilbert Wasserzieher, John Olin, Tim Leonard Experience Works, Joan Stefano, Colleen Rousu

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

Cuyuna Country – a People's History, Vol. I, II and III

Gourmet Grub, Cuyuna Range Roots & Recipes

Milford Mine Disaster, written by Berger Aulie

News and Nonsense (A compilation of articles from area newspapers from the past)

Cuy-Una!, a Chronicle of the Cuyuna Range

Hot Beds is not a Dirty Word/Deadly Winter,
(Novels set in the early days of the Cuyuna Range, written by Beverly Mindrum Johnson)

A Family of Pioneers, (history of the Knieff family on Bay Lake)

The Flight of Man High II, (manned balloon flight launched from Portsmouth Pit)

Indian Trail Magazine, (identifies land and water trails of the Ojibwe and Sioux Nations)

These books are available for sale at our office in the lower level of the Unity Bank Building.



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